

Status of Claims and Support for Claim Changes

Status of Claims

Patent claims 1-18 and additional claims 19-49 are pending in the application.

Support for Claim Amendments

Claim 1 has been amended to remove an allegedly unclear recitation in the preamble (for expression of Islet Neogenesis Associated Protein or INGAP activity). In place of this recitation applicant has inserted the recitation “for expression of a protein which stimulates islet neogenesis. This is supported at column 1, lines 25-32. The scope of claim 1 has not been changed. This change is cosmetic.

Claim 6 has been amended to change an allegedly unclear recitation (a virgule has been replaced by the word “or”). This change is cosmetic and does not change the scope of the claim.

Claim 21 has been amended to remove an allegedly unclear recitation (a portion of the human INGAP). This recitation is unnecessary due to the language which specifies what the nucleotides are (12 to 456 of SEQ ID NO: 4). This change is cosmetic and does not change the scope.

Claim 21 has also been amended to recite “under conditions sufficient for amplifying.” This recitation is supported by the disclosure of oligonucleotide primers and their use for amplification. See example 7.

Claim 27 has been amended to remove an allegedly unclear recitation (a portion of the human INGAP). This recitation is unnecessary due to the language which specifies what the nucleotides are (12 to 456 of SEQ ID NO: 4). This change is cosmetic and does not change the scope.

Claim 27 has also been amended to delete a recitation that was characterized as negative (wherein said portion excludes the nucleotides encoding the signal peptide). This change is cosmetic and does not change the scope due to the positive recitation of the nucleotides which are amplified.

Claim 29 has been amended to remove an allegedly unclear recitation in the preamble (for expression of Islet Neogenesis Associated Protein or INGAP activity). In place of this recitation applicant has inserted the recitation "for expression of a protein which stimulates islet neogenesis. This is supported at column 1, lines 25-32. The scope of claim 29 has not been changed. This change is cosmetic.